

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Stanley L. Garnett, District Attorney

February 1, 2013

Via Email: perrybuck49@gmail.com

Representative Perry Buck
State Representative - District 49
Office Location: 200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Re: HB-1085

Dear Representative Buck:

I write in support of your proposed legislation, HB-1085. I apologize that I will not be able to attend the hearing before the Judiciary Committee and testify in person.

First, as a progressive Democrat, I am in support of most gun control measures. Many of the measures proposed by my Democratic colleagues in the legislature this year are measures that I believe should be adopted. However, I am of the view that gun control, if it is to be implemented by the legislature, needs to be done so in a straight forward manner and not as indirect consequence of another bill criminalizing conduct.

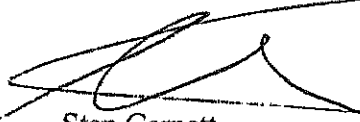
The reason I support your proposed legislation to limit felonies that qualify for prosecution for prohibiting a Colorado citizen from possessing a firearm, is because I see this bill as an effort to correct a problem that occurred in the 90's that I call "over-felonization" of conduct in Colorado. Many statutes were passed that made felonies of previous misdemeanor charges and that created extensive and recurring consequences for defendants who were convicted of low-level felonies. This over listing of consequences, in my opinion, is inconsistent with good law enforcement practices because it can make it very difficult for a defendant, once convicted of a non-violent felony, to reintegrate into society and to move forward with a productive life. Your proposed legislation, which would permit defendants convicted of certain non-violent felonies, to possess firearms for legal purposes is, in my mind, a reasonable effort to cut back on the cascade of consequences that inhibits people from meaningful rehabilitation from a criminal past.

I support this legislation as well as I support other legislation that seeks to do the same by permitting sealing of convictions and otherwise helping a convicted defendant move forward from the consequences of a non-violent conviction.

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You are free to read this statement or pass it out to folks as you see fit. Anyone who has comments or questions is welcome to call me at my office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stan Garnett', written over a horizontal line.

Stan Garnett